



The Bluffton Police Department Annual Report



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Letter from Chief Reynolds



I am pleased to present you the 2015 Bluffton Police Department Annual Report. We strive to continually be committed to the community. Within these pages, you will find how that commitment allows us to better police those who live, work and visit Bluffton.

As Chief of Police in the Town of Bluffton, I'm honored to help serve the people and businesses of this tight-knit community. The Bluffton Police Department has a community-oriented policing philosophy. We are an

organization committed to open communication, community engagement, and searching for excellence in all we do. This is why our mission is to provide the highest quality of police services to our community and its visitors by promoting a safe environment through a police-citizen partnership, with an emphasis on mutual trust, honor, professionalism, and dedication of duty.

While navigating through this report, you will learn how our calls for service have increased, while overall crime has decreased. You will learn more about the divisions within the department, what type of crime is occurring in Bluffton and what other types of programs and services we provide the public.

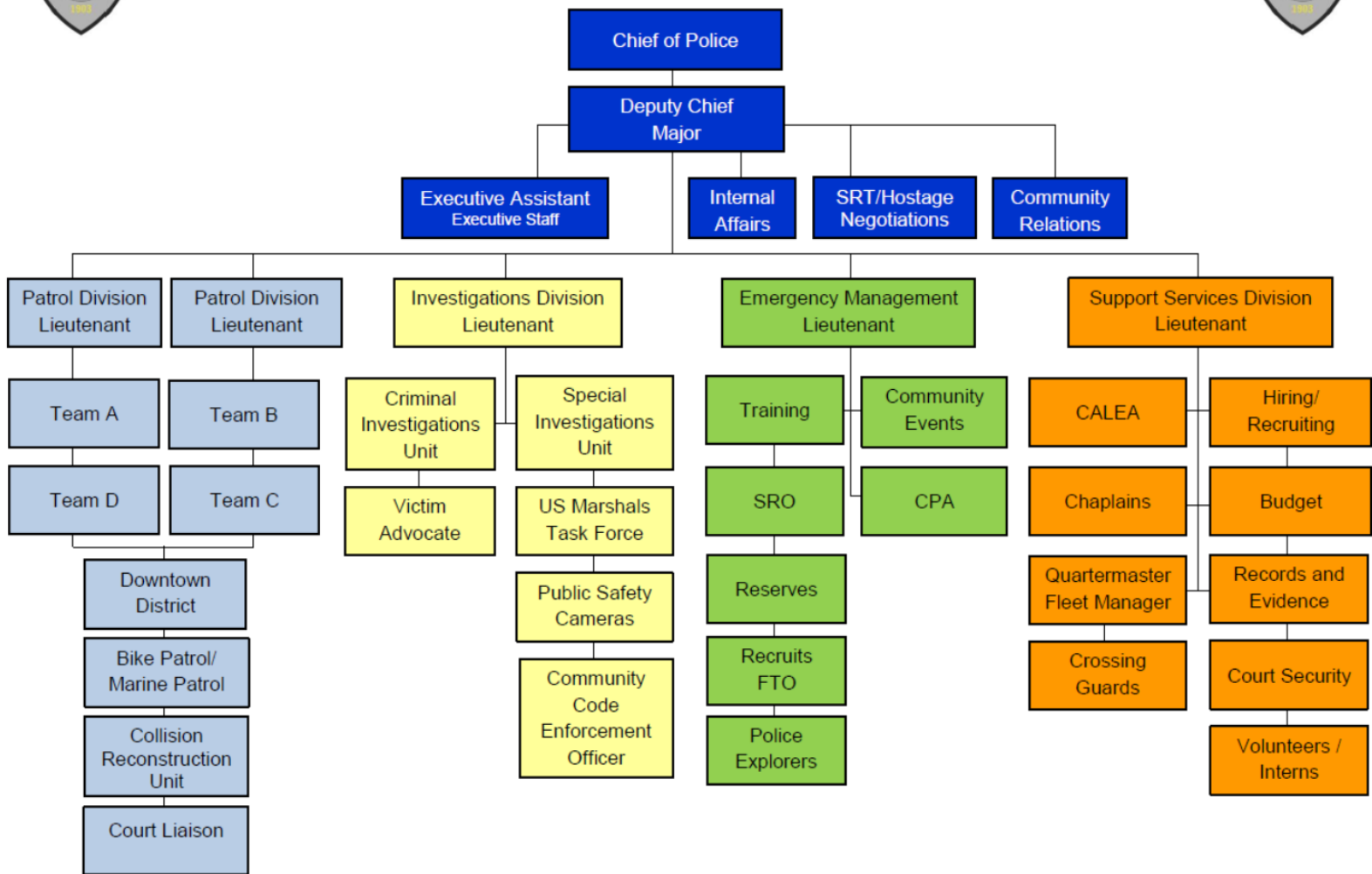
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Bluffton Police Department. I'm very proud to lead such professional men and women who protect and serve you.

Sincerely,
Joey Reynolds





BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



February 3, 2016



September 11, 2015 - Bluffton Town Hall Ceremony

Town Government



Mayor Lisa Sulka



Councilman
Fred Hamilton



Councilman
Harry Lutz



Councilman
Larry Toomer



Councilman
Dan Wood

Town Demographics

Population as of 2014: (estimate) 15,199

Caucasian	61%
Hispanic	18.8%
African-American	16.2%
Asian/Hawaiian/American Indian	4%

Females	51.1%
Males	48.9%

Daily Population Exposure 62,000

Estimated Median Household
Income:

Bluffton	\$60,038
South Carolina	\$44,779

Total Square Miles: 54.3

Land Jurisdiction 42.8 square miles

Total Miles of Roadway: 239

** data provided by US Census Bureau

Police Personnel

- Chief
- Deputy Chief
- 5 Lieutenants
- 8 Sergeants
- 30 Officers
- 1 Victim's Advocate
- 5 Civilians
- 5 Chaplains
- 1 Code Enforcement Officer
- 5 School Crossing Guards
- 12 Volunteers



Education Attainment of Officers

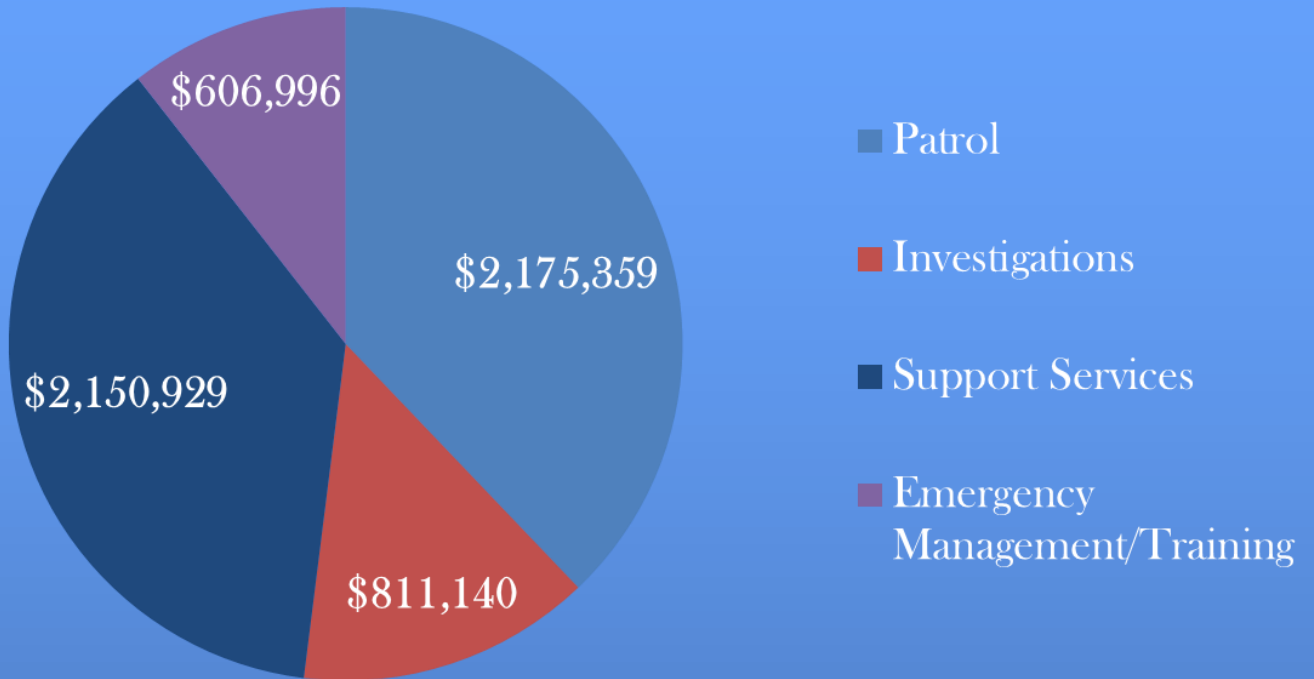
- 4 Masters Degrees
- 16 Bachelors Degrees
- 10 Associates Degrees

Department Demographics

85% Male	81% Caucasian
15% Female	13% African-American
	6% Hispanic



Annual Budget: \$5,744,424



Strategic Response Team Training, April 2015

Command Staff



Chief Joey Reynolds - Chief of Police in Bluffton since 2012. He previously was the Chief of Police in Lenoir, North Carolina. Chief Reynolds has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience. He will assume duties as the president of the FBI National Academy in July 2016.



Major Joseph Manning - Deputy Chief of Police in Bluffton since 2013. Previously he worked at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for 27 years.



Lt. Joe Babkiewicz
Investigations
Division



Lt. Paul Gannon
Support
Services
Division



Lt. Scott Chandler
Patrol Division



Lt. Christian Gonzales
Emergency
Management /
Training
Division



Lt. Joe George
Patrol Division

Deputy Chief

The Deputy Chief oversees the day-to-day operations of the department. He is also in command of the Strategic Response Team, Internal Affairs and Community Relations. In 2015, there were three formal investigations involving six officers, resulting in two sustained allegations and four unstained.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division consists of four teams of officers who work 12-hour shifts. The teams proactively patrol certain areas (labeled A, B, or C) of the Town to enforce State Law and Town Ordinances. The bicycle and marine patrols also fall under the Patrol Division, as well as the Collision Response Team. The CRT investigates why crashes occur. Finally, the two Lieutenants over Patrol also act as Court Liaisons when Traffic Court is in session.

Investigations Division

The Investigations Division involves Criminal Investigations, Neighborhood Services Unit, the department's Victim Advocate and the Community Code Enforcement Officer. The Criminal Investigators are assigned to cases involving violent crimes, property crimes, financial crimes and crimes against children. The NSU focuses on neighborhood and subdivision needs and met with various neighborhoods and HOA's throughout the year to assist with questions or provide advice. The Victim's Advocate protects and answers concerns of victims and their families. The Code Enforcement Officer ensures private and public grounds are not in violation of local codes.

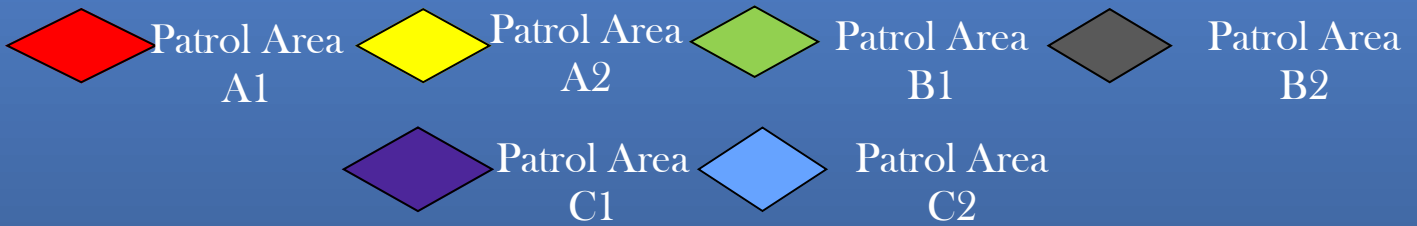
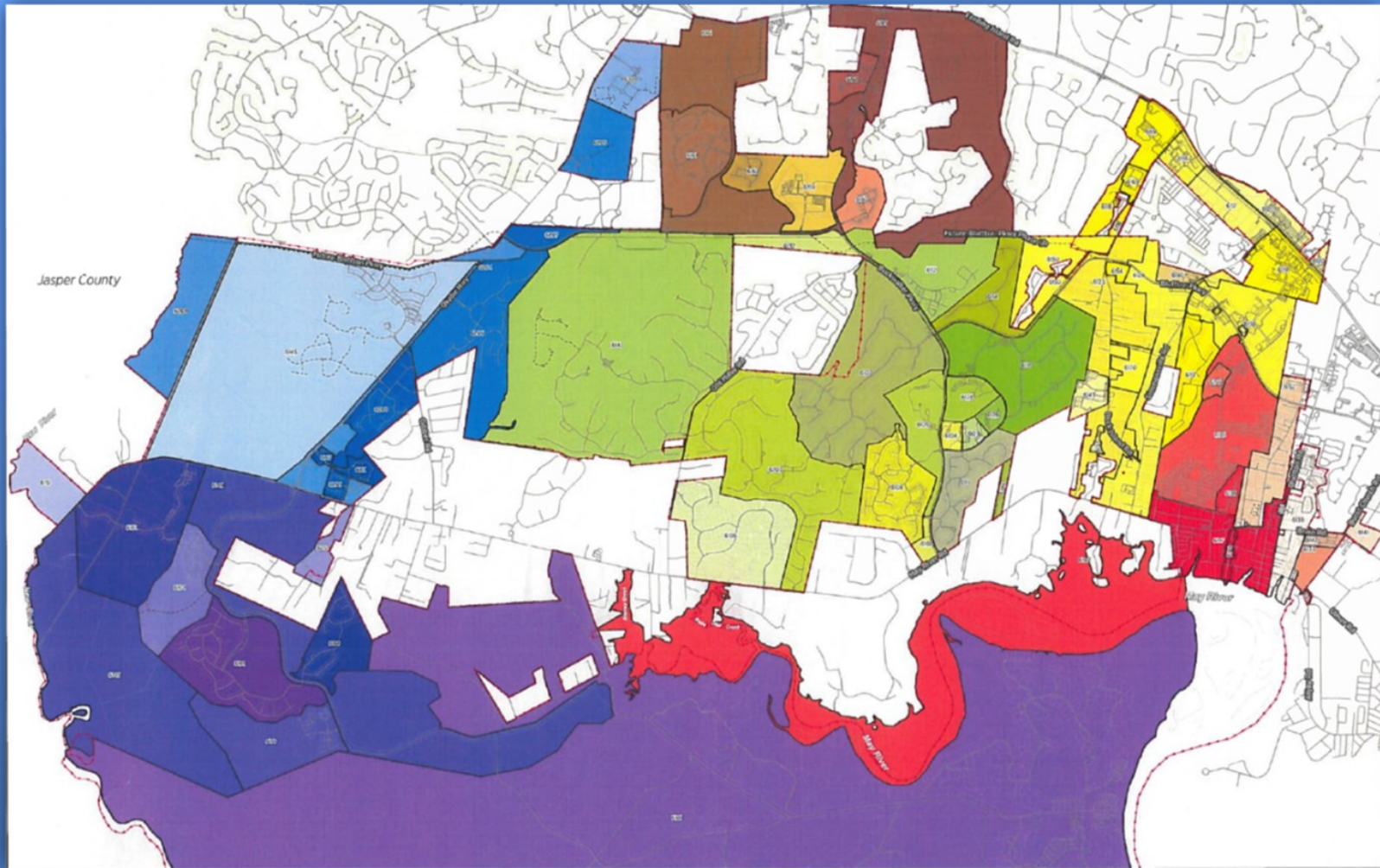
Emergency Management/Training

The Emergency Management and Training Division provide leadership during a natural disaster or major incident through plans created to mitigate the situation. The Training section maintains all records for officers ensuring compliance with the SC Criminal Justice Academy. The four School Resource Officers on staff also fall under this Division.

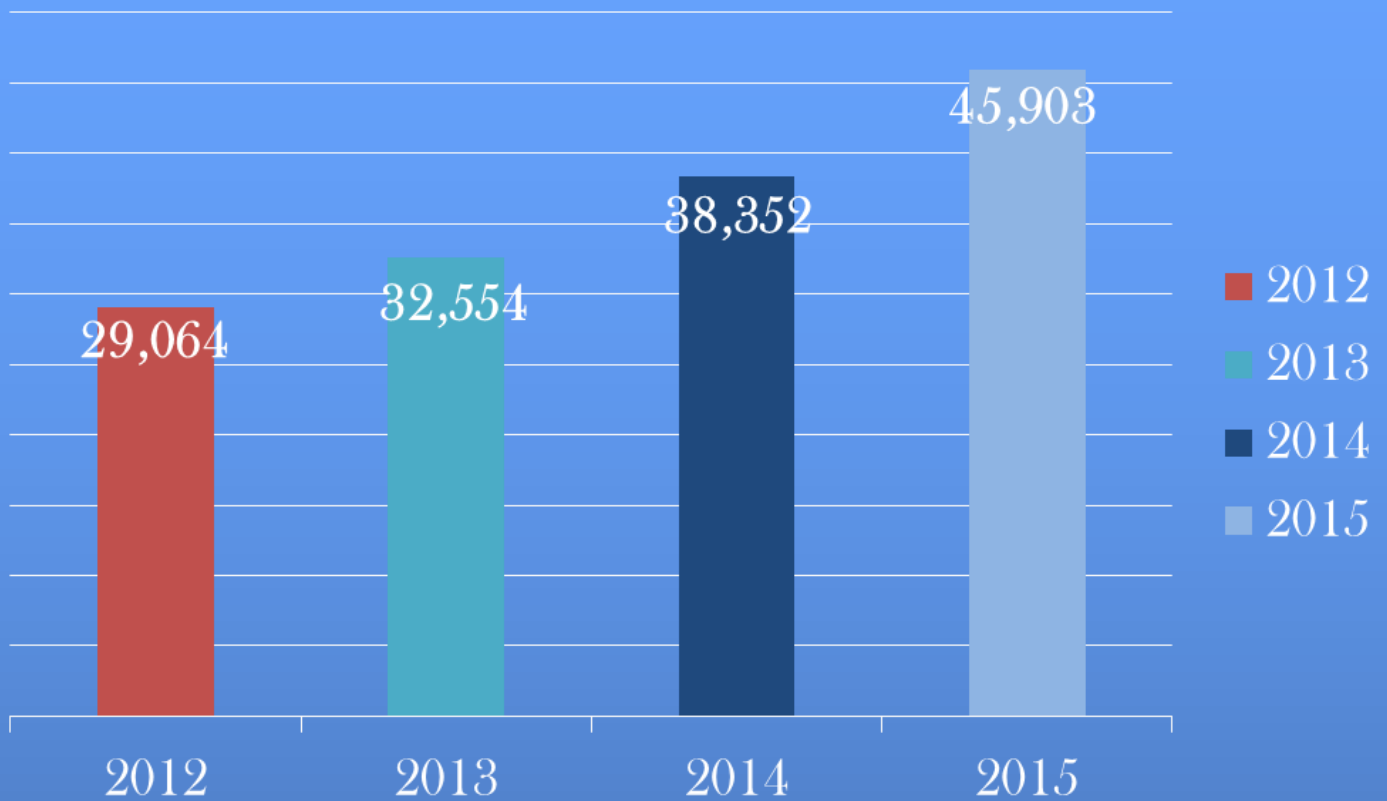
Support Services Division

The Support Division consists of several components: Budget, Records and Evidence, Court Security, Town Council security, Quartermaster/Fleet Maintenance, Hiring and Recruiting, the Chaplain program, CALEA accreditation, School Crossing Guards, Interns, and Volunteers who assist with various programs and assist citizens who walk into the department or those who call the department needing help.

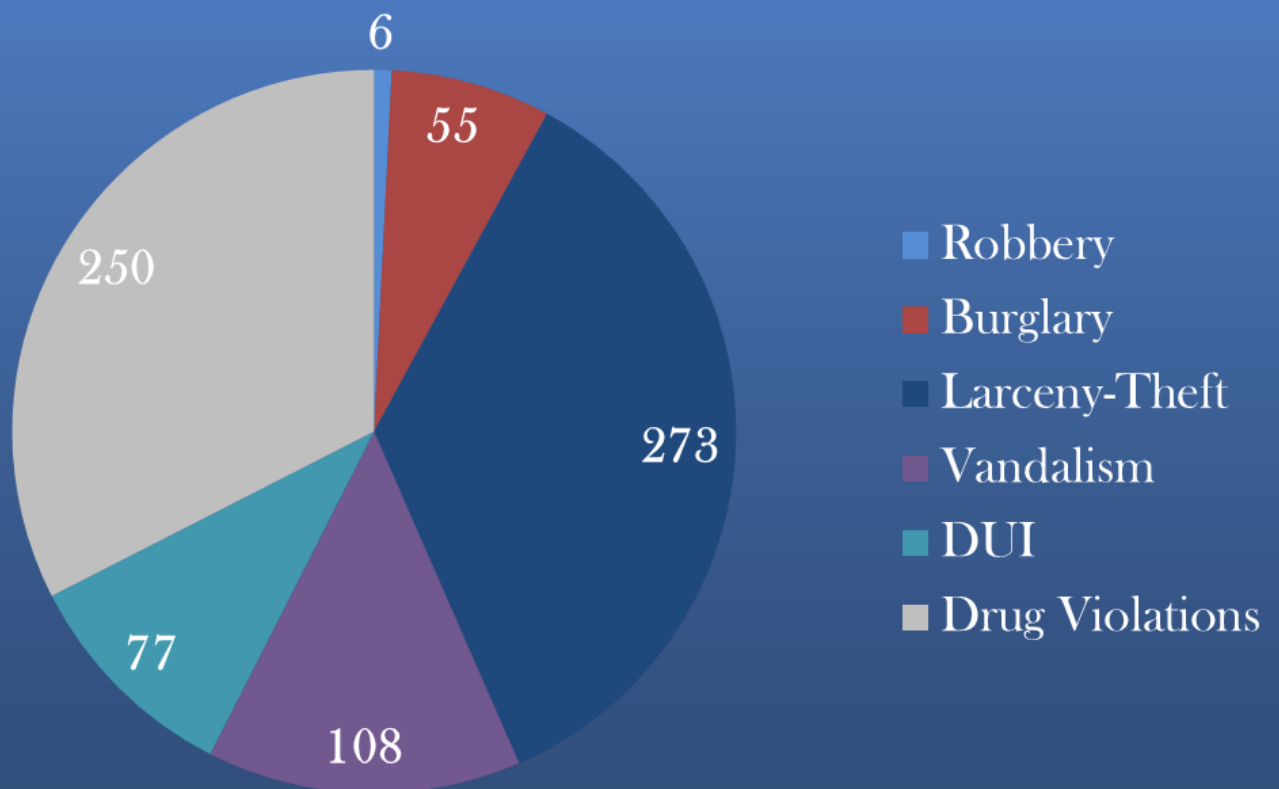
Bluffton Police Department Patrol Grid



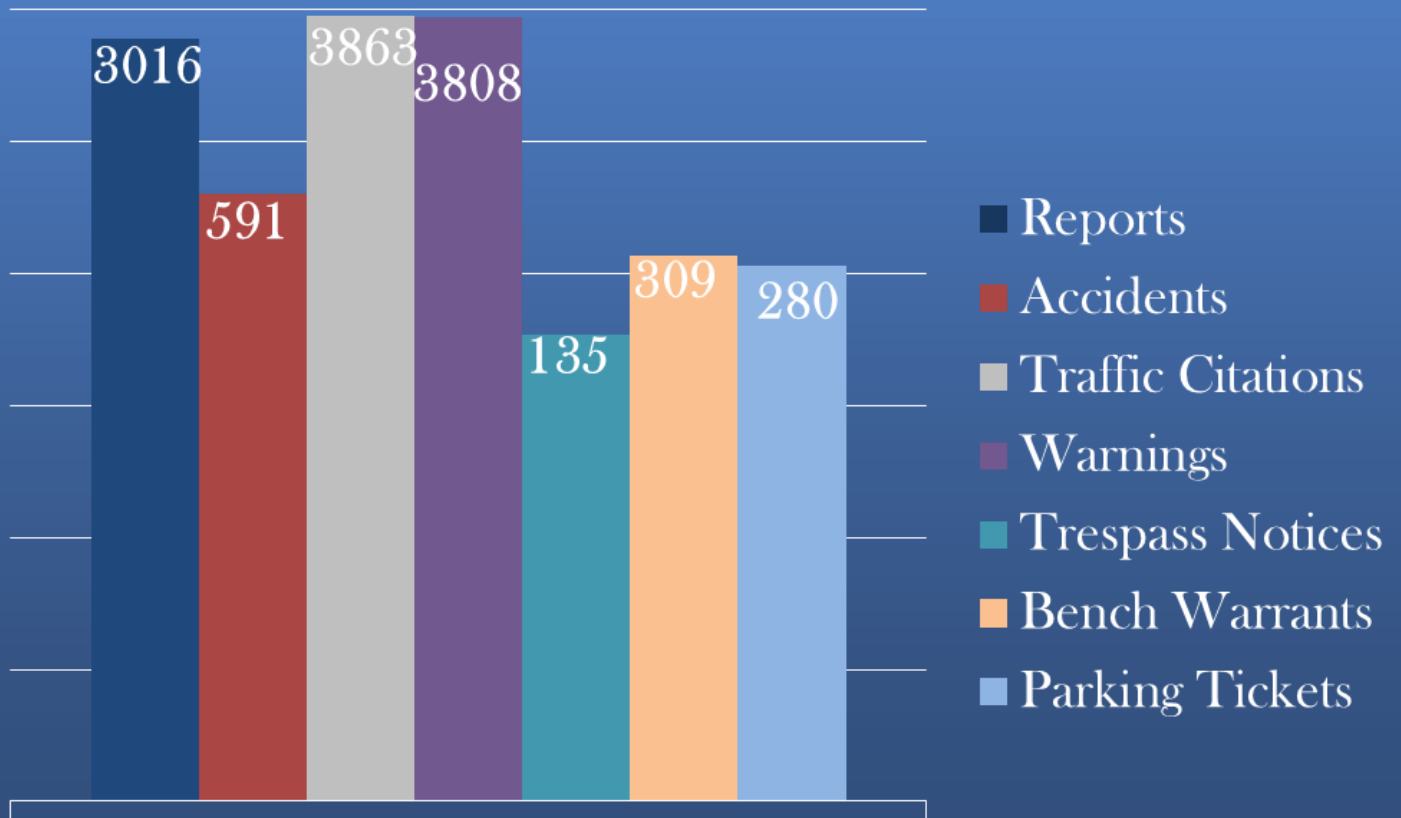
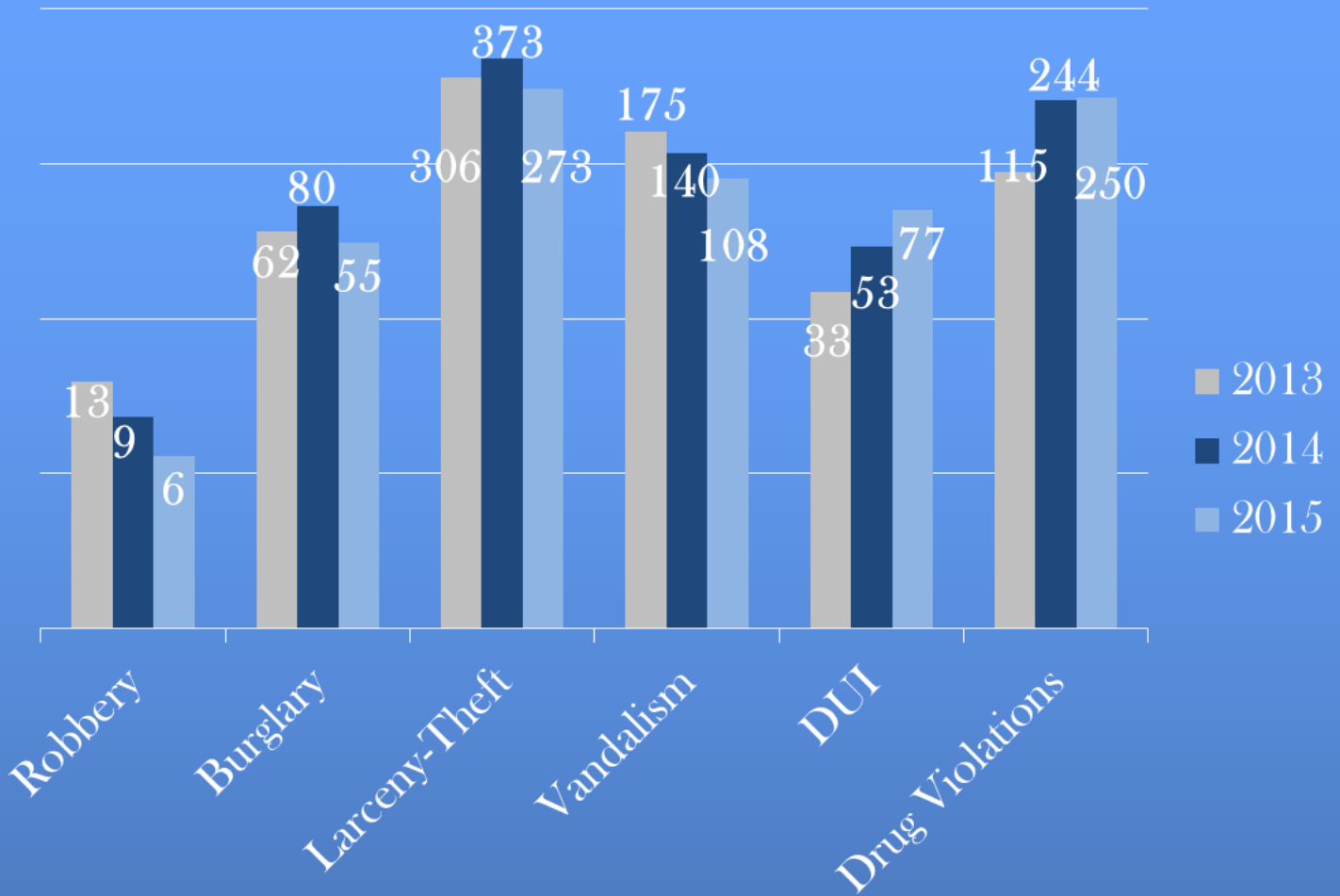
Calls For Service



2015 By The Numbers

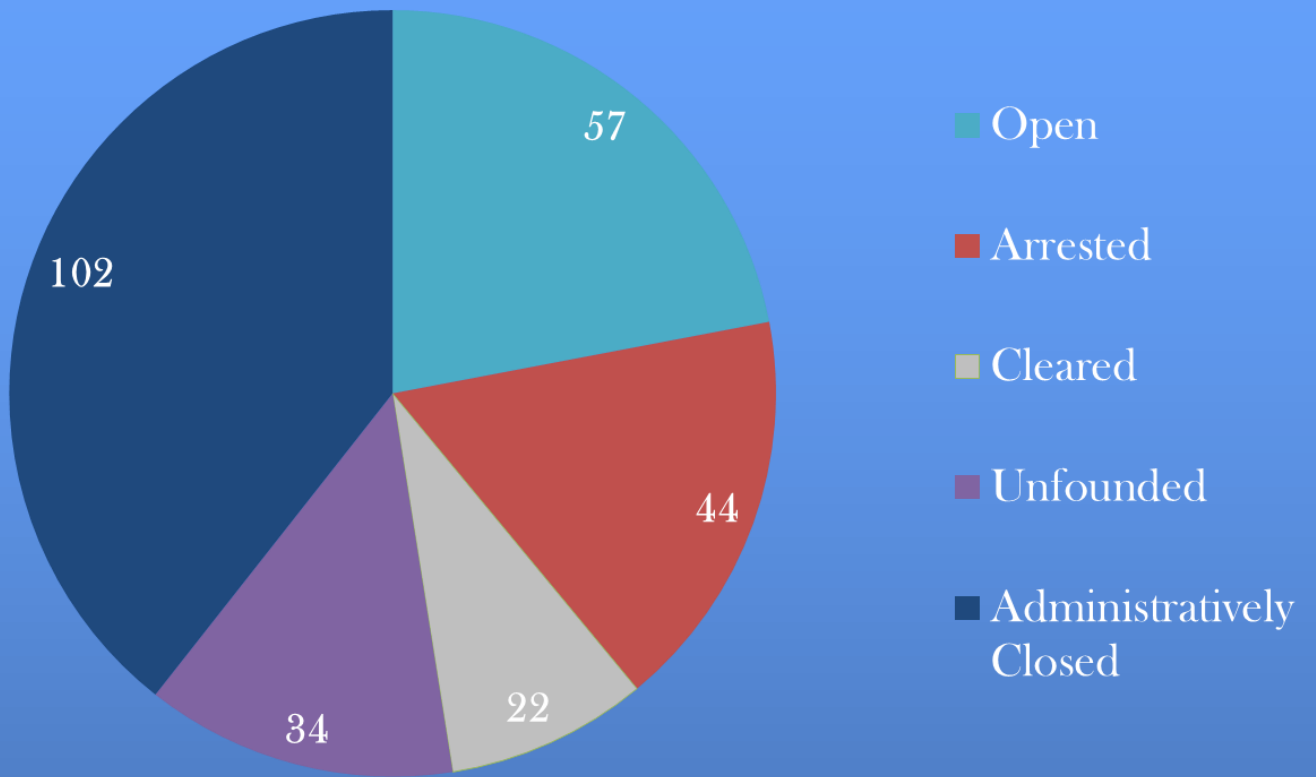


Crimes By Comparison



Patrol By The Numbers

Investigations Division Cases 89% Solvability Rate





Murders

2012	0
2013	0
2014	1
2015	1



Code Enforcement Cases

252



Volunteer Hours

2,804



Number of Events Managed by Police

265

Officer Hours Worked during Events

1,179



Programs, Services, & Accomplishments

Explorer Program



This career-oriented program provides young adults the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement by working with Bluffton Police Department officers. It consists of weekly classes over a five-month period. During the 2015 program, twenty-one officers provided time to teach the classes and offer their expertise. Each class typically consists of thirty students who receive hands-on experience in a variety of law enforcement areas including: law and procedure, street survival for law enforcement, accident investigation, vehicle stops, arrest and search procedures, Internet safety, defensive tactics/use of force, firearms, leadership and much more.

Citizen's Police Academy



The Citizen's Police Academy offers insight on how Bluffton Police conduct their job and why they make the decisions they do. Our CPA is a 10-week class that many want to experience. In 2015, more than thirty citizens took part and graduated from the class. During each class, there's a different focus, such as, the history of police, traffic enforcement, radar operation, evidence collection, fingerprint recovery, defensive tactics, firearms and more. We feel if the citizens understand what our job entails, they can relay what they've learned, building more trust between us and the community.

C.A.R.E.



The Community Assistance Response Efforts or CARE is an outreach program. The program is designed for disabled, homebound, or elderly residents to receive calls from department volunteers to check on their health and welfare. The volunteers call citizens, who have elected to participate in the program, several times a week to chat and check on their well-being. If volunteers are unable to make contact or if the volunteer detects a problem, an officer is sent by the home to check with the individual.

Hispanic Hotline



The Hispanic Hotline is a resource for the Hispanic speaking community to voice concerns and problems. The hotline can be utilized as an anonymous tip line or it can be a resource for Hispanics who need immediate help. The hotline is a voicemail system that alerts one of Bluffton Police department's Spanish-speaking officers as soon as a message is left. The number to the Hispanic Hotline is 843.706.7806.

Programs, Services, & Accomplishments

National Night Out



Each year the Bluffton Police Department coordinates their Night Out event with the National date, which is the first Tuesday of August. More than 16,000 communities from all fifty states, Canadian cities and military bases take part in National Night Out. Its purpose is to inform the public about police duties, and provide the public with information on drug prevention, neighborhood watch initiatives, and additional anti-crime efforts. In 2015, the Bluffton Police Department was awarded the National Night Out Award for our participation in the event. It was awarded by the National Association of Town Watch.

Toy Drive



It was December 2013, and a kind member of the Bluffton community dropped off an anonymous donation to buy less fortunate children Christmas presents. After that first donation, one of our officers felt it was important to begin our own Toy Drive. Since December 2014, the Bluffton Police Department has provided hundreds of children toys for Christmas.

AED Campaign



In the fall of 2015, the Bluffton Police Department partnered with the Arrhythmia Alliance and the Quance family to raise funds to place an automated external defibrillator in each patrol vehicle. This partnership was a result of 8-year-old Gavin Quance being pulled unconscious from a swimming pool. As a result of the campaign, the Bluffton Police Department was able to collect funds and receive donations to buy a total of 31 AEDs to be placed in each patrol vehicle.

Community Policing

The Bluffton Police Department feels strongly in being a Community Policing Agency. If you can build trust, then you can work together to find solutions. It's also important to have pro-active citizens who care for their community. In Bluffton, citizens who live and work in this small water town have a great amount of pride in their community and therefore, work hard to keep ongoing communication between themselves and the local leaders. We have made, and will continue to build the commitment to each other to make Bluffton the best place to live, work and play.

Goals of a Police-Citizen Partnership

Build trust.

Work together to find solutions.

Support neighborhood watch groups.

Pro-active to citizens concerns.

Ongoing communication with residents.

Commitment with each other.



Bluffton Police Department Phone Directory



Emergency: 9-1-1

Crime Tip Line: 843-706-4560

Non-Emergency: 843-524-2777

Hispanic Hotline: 843-706-7806

General Information: 843-706-4550

Website: www.blufftonpolice.sc.gov

